

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A wheelend end assembly for a vehicle comprising:
5 a support structure;
a spindle secured to said support structure with said spindle having a bore;
an output shaft received within said bore and rotatable relative to said spindle
about an axis;
a wheel hub disposed about said spindle and supported thereon by first and
10 second bearings; and
a bearing retainer secured to an end of said spindle adjacent to one of said first
and second bearings for axially positioning said bearings relative to said spindle.
2. The assembly according to claim 1 wherein each of said first and second
15 bearings include inner races in engagement with said spindle and outer races in
engagement with said wheel hub.
3. The assembly according to claim 2 wherein said wheel hub includes a
flange with at least one wheel secured to said flange.
20
4. The assembly according to claim 3 wherein said wheels define a track
centerline with said track centerline arranged between said first and second bearings.
5. The assembly according to claim 2 wherein said bearing retainer includes
25 a nut threadingly secured to an end of said spindle with a lock washer arranged between
said nut and one of said inner races.
6. The assembly according to claim 1 further including a hub driver secured
between said output shaft and said wheel hub to transmit rotational drive from said
30 output shaft to said wheel hub.

7. The assembly according to claim 1 further including a planetary gear set coupled to said output shaft to multiply torque to said output shaft.

8. The assembly according to claim 7 wherein said output shaft is unsupported in said bore of said spindle with said output shaft secured to a planetary spider of said planetary gear set.

9. The assembly according to claim 7 wherein said planetary gear set is arranged internal to said spindle proximate to said support structure.

10. The assembly according to claim 1 further including a brake assembly is located between said planetary gear set and said support structure.

11. A wheelend end assembly for a vehicle comprising:
a support structure;
a spindle secured to said support structure with said spindle having a bore;
an output shaft received within said bore and rotatable relative to said spindle about an axis;

a wheel hub disposed about said spindle and supported thereon by first and second bearings; and

a flange mounted to said wheel hub with at least one wheel secured to said flange wherein said wheel defines a track centerline with said track centerline arranged between said first and second bearings.

12. The assembly according to claim 11 wherein each of said first and second bearings include inner races in engagement with said spindle and outer races in engagement with said wheel hub.

13. The assembly according to claim 12 further including a bearing retainer secured to an end of said spindle adjacent to one of said inner races for producing a preload on said bearings.

14. The assembly according to claim 11 wherein said at least one wheel further includes a pair of wheels secured to said flange wherein said wheels define said track centerline arranged between said first and second bearings.